

## **ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Monthly Meeting, Nov 8, 7:30PM, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Attending: Eliza, Tim Lecuivre, Ed, Susan, Mara, Eric, John

Absent: Mary Ellen Aronow

Guests: Javier Marin (EAB), Nancy Brown, Ray, Keith, Joanne

**1. Approve Oct meeting minutes.** No quorum at start of meeting so did not approve.

### **2. DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)**

General update/Fall planting. Trees arrived and are heeled in. Crew will plant as soon as storm damage cleanup is complete

Gas leaks repaired along Mass Ave. Tree Dept working with National Grid. NG will reimburse town for tree cost. Trees won't be planted until the Arlington Center improvements are made.

As a side note, Tim remarked that in general people aren't interested in working outdoors anymore. All local departments are having trouble finding people to work in their tree depts. Minuteman no longer has an arborist program.

Status of fruit trees at Water Tower. Five trees have been moved since the summer.

Bylaw followup.

-21 Old Colony Rd. Tim had to follow up to insist that two trees (maples) being planted as part of the agreement.

-84-86 Paul Revere Rd. Tim examined site to make sure shade trees were planted and found there were none( and no place to plant), so developer paid to Trees Please fund instead. They will try to find a place to plant a street tree in the vicinity).

-Summer St - tim walked the property with a developer

-Medford St - large oak tree removed on private property. When Tim approached developer, he said he was unaware of the tree bylaw; developer promised to pay.

Storm damage from 10/29 storm: 6 street trees were blown over

### **3. EAB Activity Introduction/Update (Javier).**

Javier Marin, from the state Agricultural dept, attended meeting as part of his Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) outreach campaign; he is trying to meet with at-risk communities.

Wants to give us info so we're ready to address the problem should it arise. He handed out official materials. Wants to prevent a massive infestation. Cambridge did a great job. Wants the citizens to be aware of its spreading. Offering 2 training sessions perhaps collaborate with Belmont for a training session in the spring. Beetles impact only the bark layer so the wood remains intact. Wood can be used for firewood, etc.

Wants communities to set up goals. EAB can be treated; a tree doesn't necessarily have to be removed. Treatments are effective; treatment is done by injecting into the

trunk during spring. The more stressed the tree is the more appealing it is to EAB. Get info posted to the website and to FB. Let people know that the EAB is a rhing. Better for people to be aware that EAB trees are a concern and might be removed. Signs of infestation: crown dieback, exit holes first show up at top of canopy so by the time they are at eye level the tree is on its way out,

In terms of management plan, Tim would like to see “poor” condition EAB trees removed, and treat “fair” trees. Nurseries are not selling ash trees right now bc its a big issue. Grants are available thru the DCR for tree treatments.

**Next steps:** review mgmt plan goals, brainstorm exercises; coordinate so we can have a field training. Inoculation needs to happen in the spring. Outreach campaign, reporting system, etc. Javier wants to work with us on these efforts. Info should be included in our management plan. Javier has lots of resources (documents, graphics, etc) to help with our efforts.

Look at brainstorming sheet. Bio surveillance effort could happen in Arlington next summer; we have to be on the lookout for baseball fields that could work.

#### **4. Inventory / DCR Grant - ATC Tree Management Plan update.**

Mara and John would like us to review and make comment. Research of past annual reports show that in the 1970s, they were planting 500 trees per year with a staff of approx 8 people. In the 1960s, there were two watering trucks. John and Mara asked to forma subcommittee; Steve Moore and visitor Keith volunteered. The committee wants info from Tim as to what is realistic to take on during a planting campaign in terms of number **ACTION: Read and comment on this mgmt plan by Nov 30**

John E explained that BU has used our data from our tree inventory. John recently circulated graphics that BU generated based on our data. Identifies hot spots in town. Town has grant for assessing climate change impact.

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Presentation to Board of Selectmen. Not discussed

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We did not yet decide on a date for a get-together of volunteers from the inventory; but BU prof Lucy Huytra is willing to give a presentation. Still need to appoint a lead for an event. Perhaps at Kickstand.or Common Ground.

#### **5. Tree Laws and Fines**

Presentation to building committee. John and Eric attended at 7:30 (before ATC meeting) and gave a good overview to the 6 members of the PBC.

John has initiated the design of an information poster for Building Dept. to measure 18” X 24”. He has met with graphic designer and landscape architect and is coming up with the text to include.

Tim and Mike have spoken about an increase in the fines under Chapter 87 removals. Tim and Mike spoke; Mike will make the final call. No decisions yet.

## **6. Publicity**

Website: We need to include info about EAB; specifically graphics and other info from Javier. We also discussed ways of linking to other sites such as Cambridge so we don't reinvent the wheel.

Order more Tshirts. Eric will look into this effort. We decided to keep the same design

Bylaw article for Advocate – Susan – not yet written

## **7. New Business**

Trees for islands throughout town – not discussed

Watering new trees in Arlington. Ed T reported that Cambridge hires contractors to plant trees and requires the contractor to commit to water the tree for TWO years. Cambridge also plants trees 4" too high. Cambridge ambassadors are given bikes, hoses and a hydrant key, and are encouraged to make conversation with people as they go around town watering trees. Ambassadors are paid \$16/hour. Trees are watered once a week unless hot when it goes up to 2X a week.

Steve. Need to check on the status of Steve's membership.

Correspondence – not discussed